



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: December 12, 2013

Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business:

The meeting was called to order at 9:45am by the ELAC Chair, Oommen Kappil (QC Labs). Meeting Minutes were recorded by the ELAC Secretary, Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical). The November 2013 ELAC Meeting Minutes were approved, with a motion by Lauren Jenkins (IAL), with the motion seconded by Divyajit Mehta (Chemtech).

Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (ECLP):

A program update was provided by Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA). The Department is working on an Electronic Payment System for certification renewals; the target completion date is March 2014. Development of an Electronic Payment System for certification modifications will follow. Mike DiBalsi (NJDEP-OQA) is the project lead.

Proficiency Test (PT) Program:

A program update was provided by Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA). Solid/Hazardous Waste Study PT results are due to NJDEP-OQA no later than **December 31, 2013**. Drinking Water PT study letters were sent out recently for the January 2014 study; recommended closing dates are listed as February 14-28, 2014; results are due to NJDEP-OQA no later than **March 14, 2014**. Air PT study letters were sent out in October 2013; results are due to NJDEP-OQA no later than **April 4, 2014**. Water Pollution PT study letters were sent out in mid-December 2013; results are due to NJDEP-OQA no later than **May 16, 2014**. Changes include a new Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing (WET) PT study. The Department clarified that labs should participate in PT studies only for methods for which they hold certification; labs that subcontract tests should rely on the subcontract lab to participate in the appropriate PT studies. It is the Labs' responsibility to ensure that the study the Lab uses will meet reporting deadline requirements. NJDEP-OQA will not approve individual studies.

NJDEP-OQA is updating the website: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/oqa/samples.html>. The PT section will be revised with updated content, a PT calendar, and download template letters. Individual letters will still be mailed to participating labs. Questions on the PT Program may be emailed to Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA) at: rachel.ellis@dep.state.nj.us

The NELAC Institute (TNI):

TNI updates were provided by Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA). The working draft PT Standard should be available for comment by the next meeting in Louisville KY on January 27-30, 2014. Member labs are encouraged to check the TNI website for updates and copies of the drafts. NJDEP-OQA plans to participate in the January 2014 TNI Meeting.

Sludge / Biosolids: No program updates were reported.

Division of Water Supply/Safe Drinking Water:

Program updates were provided by Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW).

Clarification was provided on requirements of **40 CFR 141.23** for water systems that conduct monitoring to determine compliance with the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for Nitrate (NO₃) and Nitrate/Nitrite (NO₃/NO₂). Per USEPA, the water system must initiate re-sampling and analysis, must mark the repeat sample, and must direct the laboratory on the needed turnaround time (TAT). NJDEP-BSDW plans to clarify these requirements in a letter. Please direct questions to Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) at: linda.bonnette@dep.state.nj.us

The Department recently notified affected laboratories of contaminated lots that resulted in false positive results with Colitag™, a 16-48-hour test kit for E. coli and other coliform bacteria in water. Please direct comments and concerns to Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) at: linda.bonnette@dep.state.nj.us

NJDEP-BSDW, Water Systems Operations Element recently sent a **Notice of Disinfection Residual Monitoring and Compliance** Requirements for Water Systems that Purchase Surface Water or Purchase Ground Water under the Direct Influence of Surface Water, including Purchases Made to Supplement Ground water Wells (letter from Karen Fell, NJDEP-ELAC Meeting Minutes December 2013_draft 2 BSW, dated November 29, 2013), with an updated Disinfectant Residuals

Reporting Form (BSDW 25, Revised 10/2013). Clarification was provided for completion of Section B of the Form for all routine and repeat samples for compliance with the Total Coliform Rule (TCR). Discussion included collection of samples for Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC) analysis by a laboratory certified in New Jersey under the Safe Drinking Water Program in the event that a chlorine residual measured while collecting TCR samples is less than 0.05 ug/L. Further training will be offered in upcoming New Jersey Water Association Seminars. A copy of the Nov. 29th letter and updated Form are attached for reference. Please direct questions and comments to NJDEP-BSDW by Phone: 609-292-5550, or Email: Kristin.Tedesco@dep.state.nj.us or Felicia.Fieo@dep.state.nj.us

Site Remediation Program:

Greg Toffoli (NJDEP-SRP) provided a program update. **Analytical QA/QC Technical Guidance** Committee members continue to address over 600 technical comments received on the 4-part draft documents. Final guidance and a comment responsiveness summary are planned for release via Listserv in late-2013, followed by NJDEP-SRP overview training in February 2014, and an 8-hour training course at Rutgers University in spring 2014.

Planned updates to **TO-15 Air Analysis Statewide Contracts** include the option to select either the EPA TO-15 Method or the NJDEP Low Level Method TO-15 for Air Analysis (LL-TO-15). The Department will provide information on bid opportunity notices for these new contracts.

Planned updates to the **UHOT Rule** remain under review by the Governor's Office. This rulemaking was to include clarifications to the **Technical Requirements for Site Remediation** (Tech Regs). A target release date was not provided.

New Business / Compound Lists:

ELAC Members discussed the need for updated and consistent compound lists between NJDEP Programs. Discussion by Harvey Klein (GSL) included the need to update NJPDES permits to be consistent with the 2012 USEPA Method Update Rule (MUR), implemented by NJDEP in July 2013, including specification of composite vs. grab samples for influent and effluent. Discussion by Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical) included consideration by NJDEP Site Remediation Program rules and technical guidance of recent 2013 updates to the USEPA Target Compound List (TCL) and Target Analyte List (TAL). The Department will provide program contacts to address these issues.

New Business / Election of Officeholders:

Elections were held for ELAC Officeholders for January 2014 through December 2014. Motion was made by Oommen Kappil (QC Labs) to unanimously elect Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical) as **ELAC Chair** and Dorothy Love (Eurofins Lancaster Labs Env) as **ELAC Secretary**; this motion was seconded by Charles Anzolut (Agra Env Labs). ELAC Members extended a hearty thank you to Oommen Kappil (QC Labs), outgoing ELAC Chair, for his years of volunteer service and leadership.

New Business / Electronic Data Deliverables Subcommittee:

An update was provided by SRP-EDD Subcommittee Chair, Andy Geary (NJDEP-SRP-BIS) on development of a Web Portal upload platform for Remedial Investigation Reports (RIRs) and sample analytical data with an updated EDDI checker. The Department is progressing with system testing in winter 2013-2014, with system roll-out planned for spring 2014. Questions and comments may be directed to Andy Geary (NJDEP-SRP-BIS) at: andy.geary@dep.state.nj.us

Communications / OQA Website:

ELAC Secretary, Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical) reported that the NJDEP-OQA **website** has been updated to include the ELAC Meeting Minutes for October 2013. ELAC members and stakeholders are encouraged to sign up for both the NJDEP-OQA and NJDEP-SRP listserv options to receive email notifications from NJDEP.

Meeting Schedule: The Meeting was adjourned at 10:45AM, with a motion by Mark Haulenbeek (Accutest), and seconded by Divyajit Mehta (Chemtech). The next scheduled ELAC Meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 9, 2014 at 9:30AM**, at NJDEP, 401 East State Street, **5th Floor Conference Room** in Trenton, New Jersey. Those planning to attend must email the new ELAC Secretary, Dorothy Love at: dlove@lancasterlabs.com by Monday, December 30, 2013.

Note: All visitors must show one form of photo identification, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at the NJDEP main lobby in the Trenton, New Jersey complex (401, 501, 440 and 428 E. State Street buildings). All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification. **Visitors must be escorted at all times by a NJDEP representative when in the building.**